

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-3 without prejudice and without disclaimer as to the subject matter thereof.

4. (Twice Amended) A method of preparing a substantially RNA-free cellular component, comprising culturing

- (a) cells producing a cellular component; and
(b) cells producing an RNase[.];

lysing said cells producing said cellular component and said cells producing said RNase to produce a cell lysate, wherein said cells producing [an] said RNase produce said RNase in an amount sufficient to degrade substantially all of the RNA present in said cell lysate, incubating said lysate to allow RNase to digest said RNA molecules, and isolating said cellular component.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the cells producing the cellular component also produce [the] RNase.

6. (Twice Amended) A method of preparing a substantially RNA-free cellular component, comprising culturing cells producing a cellular component and cells producing an RNase, wherein the cellular component and the RNase are not produced by the same cells, lysing said cells to produce a cell lysate, wherein said cells producing an RNase produce RNase in an amount sufficient to degrade substantially all of the RNA present in said cell lysate, incubating said lysate to allow RNase to digest said RNA molecules, and isolating said cellular component.

7. (Amended) The method of claim [1 or] 4, wherein said cellular component is selected from the group consisting of [one of] a recombinant DNA, a recombinant protein, and a recombinant

D3
cont carbohydrate.

sub E2
D47 8. (Amended) The method of claim [1 or] 4, wherein said RNase is encoded by a gene that is integrated into the genome of the cell producing the RNase.

sub E3
D57 9. (Amended) The method of claim [1 or] 4, wherein said RNase is non-specific.

sub E4
D6 11. (Amended) The method of claim [1 or] 4, wherein said cell producing said RNase produces said RNase in a regulated manner.

Please cancel claim 36 without prejudice and without disclaimer as to the subject matter thereof.

Please add the following new claim:

sub E7
D7 37. (New) A method of preparing a substantially RNA-free cellular component, comprising culturing cells in a medium, wherein said cells produce said cellular component and RNase, and lysing said cells to produce a cell lysate, wherein said cell lysate contains said cellular component and RNase with sufficient RNase activity to degrade substantially all of the RNA molecules present in said cell lysate, incubating said lysate to allow RNase to digest said RNA molecules, and isolating said cellular component.